

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Border Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: SRP OR-135-08-006

NEPA Log Number: OR-135-08-CX-010

Proposed Action Title: German Shorthair Club SRP

Location of Proposed Action: Fishtrap, Lincoln and Spokane Counties, WA. T22N, R39E, Sec. 35, 36; T21N, R39E, Sec. 1, 2.

Description of Proposed Action: This 5-year competitive event Special Recreation Permit application is by the Inland Empire German Shorthair Pointer Club for pointer breeds hunting dog trials on horseback, with riders utilizing two circular courses in the same general use area previously used for this event for approximately 10 years, on BLM land in the Fishtrap area. The event will take place between April 4th - 5th, 2008 including set up, the event, and clean up, and will involve approximately 40 - 60 horses and riders, and approximately 70 - 120 dogs.

- 200 - 225 chukars used in the competition will be purchased from a local WDFW-approved supplier and released on the property. During the competition, dog handlers work their dogs from horseback. The dogs are expected to point the birds and the handler dismounts the horse to flush and shoot. At the flush, the handler will fire either a blank, or an official gunner will try to kill the bird so the dog may retrieve it. Horses travel at a walking pace during the event.
- Professional shooters will be utilized to minimize safety hazards, and emergency response procedures will be in place. Organizers will put up signs along the area perimeter that indicate "Bird dogs, horses, and live ammunition in use behind this sign." (or similar wording)
- Participants will camp inside the fence along the old state highway east of the Miller Ranch House in Fishtrap, between Scroggy Road (Fishtrap Road) and the Ranch House, beginning the night before the event. Vehicle and horse trailer parking will be inside the fence next to the campsite, and outside the fence along the old state highway near the campsite. (see attached map)
- Two or three water troughs to water horses and dogs will be placed temporarily inside the camp. Otherwise, during the event, horses and dogs will drink from available ground water proximate to the proposed circular courses. The courses must circumnavigate riparian areas, and use of groundwater to water horses must be in a manner that does not damage riparian areas/wetlands.
- All participants must act in a manner to avoid disturbing/stressing native wildlife. This includes restraining dogs from running free into bird and other wildlife habitat when the dogs are

not under control of handlers during the event. When not participating in the event, dogs should be kept in camp or on a leash.

- Although there are no areas of concern for 2008, in subsequent years covered by the permit, areas may be subject to closure to avoid impacts to sensitive species of plants or animals.
- Two chemical toilets will be brought in for the event. After the event, organizers and participants will spread horse manure, pick up and remove pet waste, garbage, and hay, and clean up the courses, camp and parking areas.
- Even though no fire restriction will be in effect, participants will not have open fires. There will be no course marking, and vehicles will not be driven off of roads.
- There will be no weed-free hay requirements for the first year (2008) of the 5-year permit period, but in the event that the State of Washington enacts legislation and maintains an active program in subsequent years that makes weed-free forage available, the event organizers will be responsible for restricting the transport of feed, hay, straw or mulch which is not certified as weed free to the event location.
- BLM employees will monitor the site during and/or after the event to ensure compliance, and will document any impacts to riparian areas in 2008 to determine if any changes need to be made for subsequent permitted years. A future Special Recreation Permit could be denied if it is determined that the event organizers were negligent in fulfilling the mitigation measures required in this document.
- A new CX will be completed in any subsequent years within the 5-year permit period if the course is altered, or if there is any significant change to the operations plan.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

☒ *Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Chapter 2; General Management Objectives: 7. Manage public lands and keep access routes open for a variety of recreational opportunities/experiences, including both motorized and nonmotorized recreation activities.

OR

☐ *(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9H. (1)

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The

proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply, as shown in the following table:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION			
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		YES	NO
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.6	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.7	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.8	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.9	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F: Signature

Authorizing Official: ____/S/ James Scott Pavey_____ Date: ____3/26/08_____
(Signature)

Name: James Scott Pavey

Title: Acting Field Manager, Border Resource Area

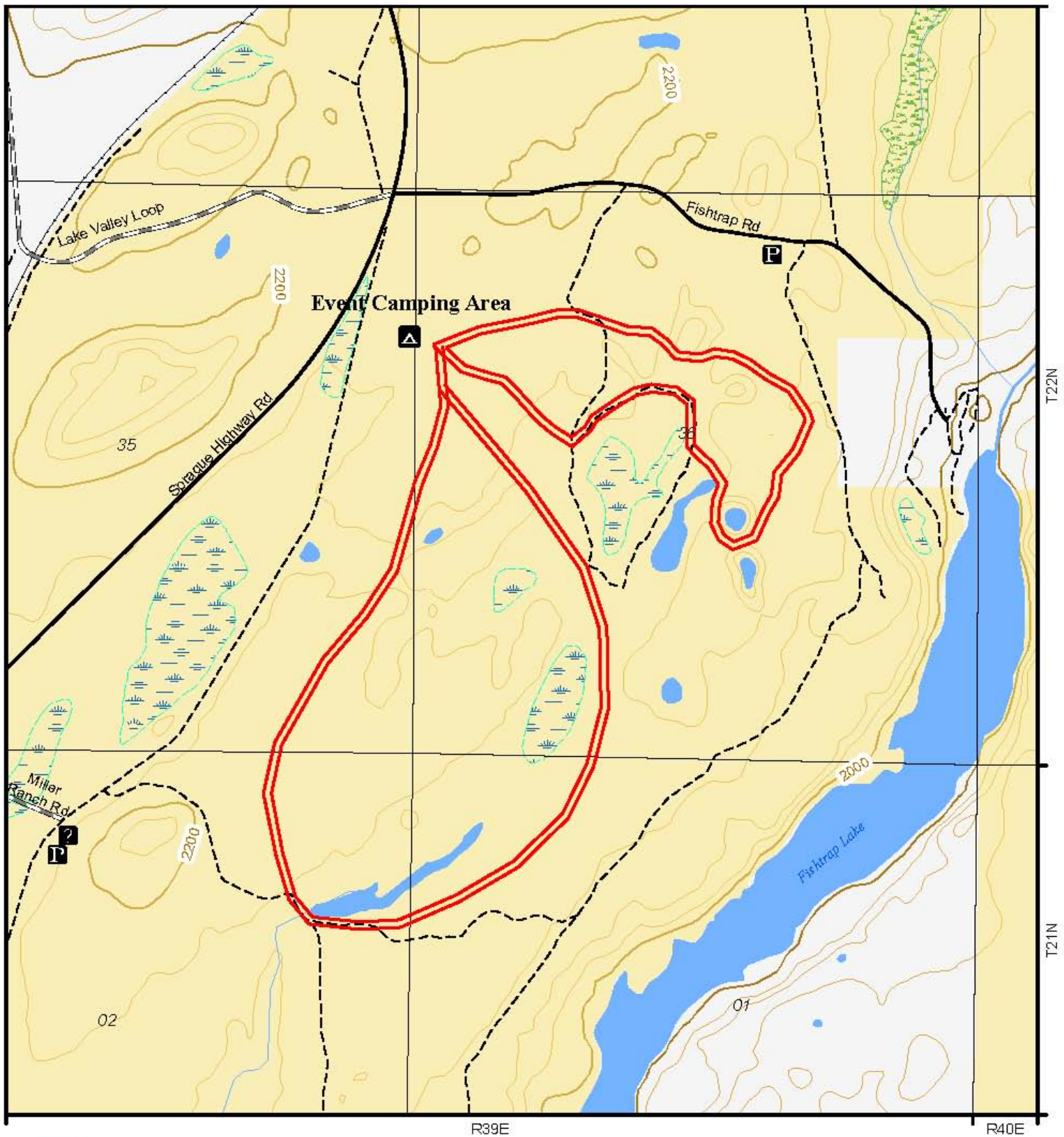
G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Steve A. Smith, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Border Resource Area, Steve_A_Smith@blm.gov, 509-536-1219

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

Inland Empire German Shorthair Pointer Club

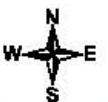
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|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | BLM Land | | Unimproved Road |
| | Approximate Course | | Primitive or Other Road |
| | Parking | | Smick Meadow |
| | Event Camping Area | | Wetland |
| | Paved Road | | Water Body |
| | Gravel Road | | Lake |
| | | | Major Streams |



0 750 1,500 2,250 3,000
Feet



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